## **ATTENTION**

The following documents appearing in FBI files have been reviewed under the provisions of The Freedom of

Information Act (FOIA) (Title 5, United States Code, Section 552); Privacy Act of 1974 (PA) (Title 5, United States Code, Section 552a); and/or Litigation. Litigation ☐ Executive Order Applied ☐ FOIA/PA Requester: Subject: Computer or Case Identification Number: Title of Case: Section \* File Serials Reviewed: Release Location: \*File\_\_\_\_\_ Section This file section has been scanned into the FOIPA Document Processing System (FDPS) prior to National Security Classification review. Please see the documents located in the FDPS for current classification action, if warranted. Direct inquires about the FDPS to RIDS Service Request Unit, File Number: Serial(s) Reviewed: FOIPA Requester: FOIPA Subject: FOIPA Computer Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_ File Number: Serial(s) Reviewed: FOIPA Requester: FOIPA Subject: FOIPA Computer Number: Section \_\_\_\_\_ File Number: Serial(s) Reviewed: FOIPA Requester: FOIPA Subject: FOIPA Computer Number: THIS FORM IS TO BE MAINTAINED AS THE TOP SERIAL OF THE FILE, BUT NOT SERIALIZED. SCANNED BY DocLab (RMD) **ATTENTION** — DO NOT REMOVE FROM FILE LAST SERIAL

FBI PRECEDENCE: TRANSMIT VIA: **CLASSIFICATION:** ☐ Teletype **Immediate** TOP SECRET ☐ Facsimile **Priority** SECRET AIRTEL Routine CONFIDENTIAL UNCLAS E F T O **UNCLAS** 1/9/89 Date TO DIRECTOR, FBI 1 2 FROM SAC, WMFO (46A-11465) (P) (C-7) b6 3 b7C 4 NATIONAL \ARCHIVES; 5 VANCE INTERNATIONAL, INCORPORATED; 6 FRAUD AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT-NATIONAL ARCHIVES; (00:WMF0) 7 Enclosed for the Bureau are the original and four 8 copies of a letterhead memorandum (LHM), describing the initial allegation on the captioned matter. This LHM is suitable for 9 dissemination. 10 For the information of the Bureau, the confidentia 11 mentioned in the enclosed LHM is b7C 12 Washington, D.C. b6 identity remain confidential fears punitive action will be taken 13 by senior National Archives officials. 14 15 16 17 18 19 Bureau (Enc. 5)ENCLOSUR 20 2-WMFO 21 TTA:ks (4)1\* Approved: **Transmitted** 

(Number)

(Time)

## U.S. Department of Justice



Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to File No. 46A-11465	Washington, D.C. 20535 January 9, 1989	
		b6 b7C
	NATIONAL ARCHIVES	
FRAUD	VANCE INTERNATIONAL, INCORPORATED AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT-NATIONAL ARCHIVES	
Bureau of Inves	stigation of the captioned matter by the Federal stigation (FBI) was predicated on information an individual (confidential source) who requested to the confidential source reported the following	
was awarded a t security at Nat was awarded to poor financial satisfactory pe Additionally, V bid submitted b	ing 1987, VANCE INTERNATIONAL, INCORPORATED (VANCE) three year, 3.8 million dollar contract to provide tional Archives, Washington, D.C. This contract VANCE in spite of the fact that the company was in condition, and had no demonstrated record of erformance on United States Government contracts. VANCE's bid was 1.8 million dollars higher than the by PINKERTON, INCORPORATED, the only other company for the National Archives contract.	3
Accor	ding to the confidential source.	;
	National	b6 b70
	sted VANCE in obtaining the security services erting improper influence on the National Archives ocess.	٥/۵
	ng December, 1987, two months after the security act was awarded to VANCE	

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On December 30, 1988, a representative of the FBI discussed the above allegation with DARRYL JACKSON, Assistant United States Attorney, Washington, D.C. Mr. JACKSON requested that the FBI conduct an investigation to determine whether Federal fraud statutes were violated with regard to the captioned allegation.

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VANCE INTERNATIONAL, INCORPORATED; FRAUD AGAINST THE GOVE	
NATIONAL ARCHIVES; OO: WMFO. 46 - 75709	- 4
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NATIONAL ARCHIVES, WAS RECENTLY APPOINTED TO TH	É
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SECURITY SERVICES CONTRACT AWARDED TO SUBJECT COMPANY VANCE
INTERNATIONAL IN OCTOBER, 1987. WROTE THE REQUEST FOR
PROPOSAL ON THE AFOREMENTIONED CONTRACT AND ALSO MET WITH VANCE
INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE AFOREMENTIONED
CONTRACT WAS PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED. WAS PART OF A TWO MAN
TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE WHICH RECOMMENDED THE CONTRACT AWARD
TO VANCE INTERNATIONAL EVEN THOUGH VANCE INTERNATIONAL WAS THE
HIGH BIDDER BY ONE MILLION DOLLARS. IN CONCLUSION, WAS THE
CONTRACTING OFFICER'S TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVE ON THE CONTRACT
AFTER THE AWARD WAS MADE TO VANCE INTERNATIONAL.

IN VIEW OF INVOLVEMENT IN THE QUESTIONABLE CONTRACT

AWARD TO VANCE INTERNATIONAL, WMFO REQUESTS THAT NO DETAILS

RELATED TO THE CAPTIONED MATTER BE FURNISHED TO THE OFFICE OF

INSPECTOR GENERAL, NATIONAL ARCHIVES. NO SUCH INQUIRIES HAVE

BEEN RECEIVED AT WMFO, HOWEVER, THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS BEING

SUBMITTED TO FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION HEADQUARTERS (FBIHQ)

AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE.

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g Title char		name of subject VANCE,	* 3
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	of Bureau SSA	to_SA	
10 on 1/29/90.	•		3
	for the Bureau are	the following: ing LHM in this matter. L	TYM
is suitable for		ther law enforcement	MM
agencies (with the e	exception of NATIO	NAL ARCHIVES).	
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## LHM DISSEMINATION

	Copies of enclosed LHM should not be disseminated to	
		b6 b7C
	subject took actions favorable to VANCE INTERNATIONAL, with regard to the NATIONAL ARCHIVES security contract awarded to VANCE INTERNATIONAL in 1987.	
	RULE 6E	
!	Pursuant to Rule 6E of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, references to the Federal Grand Jury were not included in the construction of the LHM so that LHM could be disseminated outside the FBI. VANCE INTERNATIONAL documents obtained by means of a Federal Grand Jury subpoena were found to contain no information regarding fraud, bribery or gratuities	
	CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE	<b>,</b> b7D
		b7C b6
,	During re telcall, SSA advised that an independent Inspector General may be appointed to investigate the actions of NATIONAL ARCHIVES It should be noted that many of the interviews in captioned investigation were conducted on the condition of confidentiality.	b6 b7C

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46-75709-3



## U.S. Department of Justice

## Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.	Falls Church, Virginia January 31, 1990	22043
	<u> </u>	b6 b70
	NATIONAL ARCHIVES;	

## VANCE INTERNATIONAL, INCORPORATED; FRAUD AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT-NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Investigation of the captioned matter by the FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (FBI) was predicated on information received from a confidential source during the month of December, 1988. The confidential source stated that a senior NATIONAL ARCHIVES official, took actions to insure that VANCE INTERNATIONAL was awarded the NATIONAL ARCHIVES security contract in 1987. According to the confidential source, VANCE INTERNATIONAL was awarded the contract even though PINKERTON, another security company, submitted a bid which was much lower.

## CONFERENCE WITH US ATTORNEYS OFFICE

On December 30, 1988, Special Agents of the FBI discussed the above information with Assistant US Attorney (AUSA) DARRYL JACKSON, US Attorneys Office, Washington, DC. AUSA JACKSON requested that the FBI conduct an investigation to determine whether Federal bribery and/or fraud statutes were violated with regard to the alleged questionable procurement activities at NATIONAL ARCHIVES.

## INVESTIGATION

The investigation determined that on September 4, 1987, NATIONAL ARCHIVES sent the security contract request for proposal (RFP) to four security companies; VANCE INTERNATIONAL, WACKENHUT, PINKERTON AND WELLS FARGO. The RFP required interested companies to submit their proposals (bids) by September 18, 1987. Because there was insufficient time to prepare a bid, WACKENHUT and WELLS FARGO did not respond. Only two companies, VANCE INTERNATIONAL and PINKERTON, INCORPORATED submitted bids to NATIONAL ARCHIVES.

Officials of PINKERTON advised the FBI they had to "throw together" their proposal in order to meet the time restrictions imposed by the RFP. VANCE INTERNATIONAL's bid price was \$ 3.8 million and PINKERTON's bid price was \$ 2.7 million. On October 1, 1987, VANCE INTERNATIONAL was awarded the contract.

A review of the NATIONAL ARCHIVES security contract file determined that NATIONAL ARCHIVES procurement personnel waived several procurement regulations on the basis of exigent circumstances. Basically, these exigent circumstances were created when a determination was made on September 3, 1987, to terminate the contract with the security company then providing services to NATIONAL ARCHIVES. That termination was to take effect on October 5, 1987.

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At the time of the procurement,
review panel which recommended that VANCE INTERNATIONAL receive the contract award. justified the award to the highest bidder based on VANCE INTERNATIONAL's superior technical qualifications.
The investigation further determined that prior to the aforementioned RFP being sent out, directed that meet with representatives of VANCE INTERNATIONAL.
On August 14, 1987, held a conference with
with VANCE INTERNATIONAL. Evidence  obtained during the investigation determined that told of NATIONAL ARCHIVES' intentions to replace their security contractor. described for the type of services being provided by the contractor, including the number of guard
On August 18, 1987, and other NATIONAL ARCHIVES of VANCE INTERNATIONAL.
On September 18, 1987, VANCE INTERNATIONAL submitted their bid to NATIONAL ARCHIVES after the deadline had passed.  The VANCE INTERNATIONAL bid was accepted only after directed procurement officials to waive the deadline requirement.
It was also determined that during 1988, frequently went to lunch with the VANCE INTERNATIONAL employee who supervised the NATIONAL ARCHIVES contract. No evidence was found that rother VANCE INTERNATIONAL representatives paid for meals.

When interviewed by the FBI regarding their contacts with representatives of VANCE INTERNATIONAL, stated that the purpose of these contacts was to gatner incormation to be used in the preparation of the RFP. Both of them denied telling VANCE INTERNATIONAL officials of their intentions to hire another security company. Although the investigation found evidence to the contrary (August 14, 1987 denied that he provided VANCE contact with INTERNATIONAL officials with information which would be useful in preparing their (VANCE INTERNATIONAL's) bid. denied that their actions during the procurement process were intended to assist VANCE INTERNATIONAL in that company's attempts to win the contract award. stated never attempted to pressure him into taking actions favorable to VANCE INTERNATIONAL.

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## **FINDINGS**

An extensive investigation conducted by the FBI discovered no evidence that VANCE INTERNATIONAL defrauded the Government. Furthermore, there was no information developed during the investigation which indicated that MEGRONIGLE and accepted bribes and/or gratuities from representatives of VANCE INTERNATIONAL.

## OPINION OF THE US ATTORNEYS OFFICE

On January 23, 1990, the above information was discussed with AUSA WILLIAM LANDERS, Chief, Public Integrity Section, Office of the United States Attorney, Washington, DC. AUSA LANDERS declined prosecution in the captioned matter due to a lack of evidence to support a criminal prosecution against the captioned subjects. In view of AUSA LANDERS' position, the FBI will conduct no further investigation in the captioned matter.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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	National Archives, Washington, D.C., telephone	
number	was interviewed at his office and he	
	ned the following information:	
	was hired at National Archives as a	
	<u>purind</u> <u>was appointed</u>	
as	His	
present	position became permanent during	
	has read the articles which appeared in	
HThe Wa	ashington Times" concerning the National Archives security	
contrac	t awarded to VANCE INTERNATIONAL during October 1987.	
ĵ	Prior to the aforementioned contract award, National	
Archive	es had been protected by OLD DOMINION SECURITY, a	
Governm	ment Services Administration (GSA) contract firm.	
	office received numerous complaints about the	
quality	of service provided by OLD DOMINION SECURITY. Many of mplaints originated from the offices of U.S. Congressmen.	
	1987, was arrested by the Federal Bureau of	
Tructi	igation for stealing several historic documents from the	
Nationa	al Archives. In opinion, was able to	
carry	but the thefts because of low standards set by GSA in their	
securit	ty services contracts.	
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¥.	On numerous occasions, had discussed the	
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aforeme	entioned problems with his superior of Administrative	
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This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

WMFO 46A-11465

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and stated that sever employed by VANCE INT INTERNATIONAL employed procedures.  the Saudi Arabian Embouring the During the that he was do by OLD DOMINION SECUR intentions with regar contract. At no time National Archives off	stated his company oassy and other Washing meeting, and other washing adispleased with the legality, however, he did not the National Arce did he advise ficials were consideri	rice Agents were described VANCE des and training my provided security at mgton, D.C. locations.  advisedand evel of service provided not disclose his chives security services that ing the replacement of
replace OLD DOMINION On Septembe held at the United St observed that the DOJ	ay have inferred that SECURITY. er 1, 1987, tates Department of J J Building was protect	attended a meeting Justice (DOJ) and
examined the DOJ secu it required higher st services company.	curity services contracturity services contract tandards of service frequest request	ct and determined that com the contract
WACKENHUT, PINKERTON INTERNATIONAL and PIN on the dat	AND VANCE INTERNATION  NKERTON responded to t  National Archiv te the bids were recei of the bids was late.	the RFP.  ves, telephoned  ived. told

PINKERTON's proposal stated their intention to hire the Old Dominion guards assigned to the National Archives. The National Archives Technical Evaluation Committee recommended that the contract be awarded to VANCE INTERNATIONAL. The major factor in this recommendation was PINKERTON's intention to hire the same

WMFO 46A-11465

Continuation	n of FD-302 of			,On <u>4/28/89</u> ,Pag
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	the GSA c	ls who were the root ontract. Evaluation Committe	agreed with	ems experienced under the assessment of the
. [	contract,	added that once he it was unnecessary	nce of the afo only met with e examined the to meet with	VANCE INTERNATIONAL.  DOJ security services
	INTERNATI	ONAL representative answered that he	s prior to Aug	met with VANCE ust 18, 1987.
	responded October 2	ONAL representative that he met with V , 1987, after the contractional).	s after August ANCE INTERNATI	ONAL representatives on
- (i,	represent offered,	red anything of valuatives.  nor had he received ONAL representatives	e from VANCE responded tha anything of v	it he had not been
	to assist contract influence	d the National Arch VANCE INTERNATIONA award.	ives Procureme L in receiving answered that	or any other person had ent Process in an effort the aforementioned he exerted no such forts being undertaken
		At the conclusion of INTERNATIONAL has Archives.		

b6 b7C 302 (REV. 3-10-82)

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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WMFO 46A-11465 b6 b7C 2/1/89 Continuation of FD-302 of told about the PINKERTON guards he had seen at the DOJ and for that reason, a copy of the DOJ security contract to use It as the basis in preparing the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the National Archives security contract. After telling about the PINKERTON guards at the DOJ. a marketing pamphlet gave describing VANCE INTERNATIONAL, INCORPORATED (INC.), another security company. does not know the circumstances of acquiring the aforementioned pamphlet. in no way, suggested to that the security contract should be awarded to VANCE INTERNATIONAL, INC. telephoned VANCE INTERNATIONAL, INC., to inquire about the capabilities of that security company. A meeting with VANCE INTERNATIONAL, INC., representatives was held at Angust 18. 1987. Present at the meeting were another employee of VANCE and INTERNATIONAL, INC. described the capabilities of VANCE INTERNATIONAL, INC. advised the VANCE representatives that National Archives was having problems with their existing security contractor and that National Archives would possibly hire another <u>securi</u>ty company. Neither provided the representatives with information which would have given them an advantage over other companies competing for the National Archives contract. At the time of the aforementioned meeting, the security contract RFP had not yet been prepared. No written record was kept on the aforementioned meeting.

RFP

Deputy Director of Program Policy and Evaluation, prepared the RFP for the National Archives Fiscal Year 1988 security contract. Under the old GSA RFP, guards were allowed to wear earrings and other types of jewelry. Under the new contract, this was prohibited. The new RFP required each guard to possess two types of uniforms; traditional police uniforms and a more formal uniform, which included a blue blazer jacket. The new contract also required that each guard have three years of consecutive security experience and an extensive background investigation performed by the contractor. The new RFP also required that each quard be tested psychology to eliminate individuals who were prone to violence, drug abuse or other undesirable traits. The new RFP also required that periodical medical physicals be administered to the guards. On site project managers were required also.

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noted that the GSA contracts did not require on site project managers, therefore, security procedures, grooming

project managers, therefore, security procedures, grooming standards and other areas of concern were not properly addressed. All of the above described requirements in the RFP were absent in the GSA security contract RFPs.

During September, 1987, copies of the Fiscal Year 1988, RFP, were sent to WELLS FARGO, WACKENHUT, PINKERTON and VANCE INTERNATIONAL, INC. Only PINKERTON and VANCE INTERNATIONAL, INC., chose to bid on the contract. The best and final offer was received from PINKERTON on September 30, 1987.

Because of all the problems experienced in the OLD DOMINION SECURITY contract performance, that contract was terminated in the best interest of the Government, effective at midnight on October 5, 1987. Because of the exigency of the need for a new security contract, a synopsis on the security services procurement was not published in the Commerce Business Daily. Also, PINKERTON and VANCE INTERNATIONAL, INC., had very little time to prepare a proposal on the security contract. furnished the interviewing agent with a copy of a two page memorandum dated September 3, 1987, which describes the reasons for departing from normal contracting procedure.

## Individuals Involved

Because of his position (in charge of security), OBERG was the Contracting Officers Te Representative (COTR) on the security services of Within the National Archives Procurement Branch,	chnical contract.
was	and
Committee (TEC), which reviewed the proposals suby VANCE INTERNATIONAL, INC., and PINKERTON.	

## Contract Award

Even though PINKERTON's bid price was lower than
the price offered by VANCE INTERNATIONAL, INC., the TEC
recommended that the contract be awarded to the latter
company, based on the differences in technical qualifications.
provided the interviewing agent with a copy of a
five page memorandum, dated October 1, 1987, which is titled
Recommendation for Award at Other Than Low Price.
stated this memorandum enumerates the reasons for recommending
the contract award to VANCE INTERNATIONAL, INC.

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	INC., was in poor ficontract award.  INTERNATIONAL, INC., to an entity, however was assessed by the its recommendation.  At the time	owed several huer, that company' Procurement Bran	the time of was aware the distribution of the was aware the standard the distribution of the distribution	the aforement that VANCE described described described and the control of the con	ntioned
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	exceed GSA requirements That company's guard GSA only requires the	is qualify two ti	of firearms q mes a year, w	ualificatio hereas	i ons.
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	Times Newspaper", who inc., contract is confor each guard, when the Government was of that the newspaper's factors were left of an hour, however, Goper hour to pay for	nich stated the Vosting the Government of the Oleran Charged \$6.00 and representation of the OLD DOMINION CARREST NATION NATION CARREST NATION	ment \$19.00 a D DOMINION co hour. was false bec I charged GSA hal Archives \$	IONAL, n hour ntract, explained ause severa \$6.00	
6	Additional for security service is now receiving a	es by stating tha			<b>5e</b>
	Procurement Branch	Complaints			
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WMFO 46A-11465 b6 b7C 2/1/89 Continuation of FD-302 of once hired an individual to work in the Mangagement and Analysis Division. This individual was hired to write specifications for Automated Data Processing (ADP) procurements. It was never intended that this individual become a Contracting Officer, however, complained that was attempting to manipulate the procurement process. Recently, became embroiled in a dispute concerning the hiring of a receptionist. insisted that the receptionist be an employee of VANCE INTERNATIONAL, INC., however, wanted to use the competitive

did not want two different companies working at the same

station because such a situation would cause several problems.

bid process to fill the position.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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		National Archives, Washington, D.C., telephone		b7C
		was contacted by telephone at his office		
and	he fu	rnished the following information:		

The request for proposal (RFP) on the Fiscal Year 1988 security services contract was sent to Wells Fargo, Wackenhut, Pinkerton and Vance International on September 4, 1987. The RFP required that bids be submitted by the prospective contractors by September 18, 1987. An amendment to the RFP was sent out on September 11, 1987. This amendment eliminated the security clearance requirement contained in the RFP.

Regarding the General Services Administration (GSA) contract with OLD DOMINION SECURITY (ODS) to provide security at National Archives, that contract became effective on June 1, 1986, with a termination date of May 31, 1987. The Government exercised its option to renew the ODS contract, which extended the service to May 31, 1988. Prior to the expiration of that option, National Archives officials terminated the contract due to problems with ODS.

Investigation o	on 2/16/89	at Alexandria, Virginia	le # WMFO	46A-11465
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# MONEY



## Ford's son-in-law wins Archives bid

By Leslie Cauley

A security firm owned by Chuck Vance, former President Gerald Ford's son-in-law, won a lucrative contract to murd the National Archives even-though was the high bidder by \$1 million.

The October 1987 award raised more than a few cycbrows, not only because of the added expense to taxpayers, but also because a company executive received an exclusive, one-on-one briefing from a top Archives official two weeks before the contract was publicly announced.

James Megronigle, assistant archivist for management and administration, first confirmed but later denied the converse was discussed in the briefing.

The contract was awarded to Mr. Vances firm. Vance International Inc. of

Oakton, Va., about the same time Donald Wilson, director of the Ford presidential library, was selected as U.S. archivist.

Mr. Vance said his ties to the Ford family at the time—he and Mr. Ford's daughter, Susan, were recently divorced—played no role in winning the \$3.8 million contract.

"Anytime you get a contract over the other guys, people are going to complain," Mr. Vance said recently. "To my knowledge, we didn't get any preferential treatment."

Mr. Vance did not attend the one-onone-briefing requested by Mr. Megronigle, but acknowledged that hisdeputy, James Levine, did.

Mr. Vance also denied that he has close contacts with Mr. Wilson, the former Ford librarian who was sworn in as U.S. archivist in December 1987. Mr. Wilson's name surfaced as heir-apparent to the post the previous summer.

Mr. Vance said he had "only met him a few times," once when he and then-wife Susan Ford attended Mr. Wilson's swearing-in ceremony.

The only other bidder for the Archives security contract, Pinkerton Inc., lost with a \$2.8 million bid.

Government contracts must be awarded to the low bidder unless there is a compelling reason not to, a subjective decision made by agency heads.

Mr. Wilson declined comment. "In his position he was not involved in this process and so he has nothing to say about it," said spokeswoman Jill Brett.

She referred questions to Mr. Megronigle, who denied Mr. Vance's links with the Fords played a role in his firm winning the award.

"As we have repeatedly stated, the initial meeting with Vance was purely for gathering information, entirely appropriate under the regulations, and in no way gave Vance an unfair advantange," Ms. Brett said.

But several Archives sources said otherwise. Senior agency officials "let it be known [in summer 1987] that they wanted Vance to win" the security contract shortly after Mr. Wilson's name surfaced in connection with the archivist post, said a source; who requested anonymity.

"Before that, all you ever heard was 'Pinkerton this,' and 'Pinkerton that,' " a source said. "But after it was apparent that Wilson was going to be the next archivist, their tune changed. Then, all you

see BID, page C2

# Beware chiselers with tools

By Anne Veigite



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heard was 'Vance, Vance, Vance,' " Pinkerton officials declined com-

The contract was awarded under "emergency" bidding procedures following the 1987 theft of several historic documents by Charles Merrill Mount, a former researcher at the Library of Congress and the Archives, who was sentenced to three years in prison for the thefts.

Archives, storehouse for the nation's historic treasures including the Constitution, has more than 1 million visitors a year.

The scandal prompted the agency to cancel its existing contract with Old Dominion, a Virginia Beach. based security firm, and search for a replacement under the shortened? bidding timetable of emergency procedures.

Shortly before terminating the Old Dominion contract, however, Mr. Megronigle said he contacted Vance International and invited a company representative to his office for a private meeting even though he rarely meets with contractors personally.

The meeting, which took place on Aug. 18, 1987, was held with Mr. Levine, Vance's director of sales and marketing, to discuss Archives' security problems and what types of remedial security services Vance had to offer, Mr. Megronigle said.

"I really wasn't sure if there was anybody out there who could provide the quality of service" the agency was looking for, he said.

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"I had read about Vance, articles about him, and he had a good reputation. So we had them come in and tell us if they thought anybody could do a better job. And they thought that, ves, they, of course, could do a better job and other companies could do a better job."

Mr. Megronigle also said he told Mr. Levine at the meeting that Archives would likely be issuing a request for bids for a new contractor.

Though he didn't offer specifics of the upcoming contract in the meeting, Mr. Megronigle discussed a "litany of problems and concerns" Archives was having with the current security contractor, Mr. Levine said.

"He let us know that the other guard service had not been very management oriented," Mr. Levine said recently. "He said they were having serious security problems and he identified them. I asked about their security concerns and, at their invitation, we discussed different security measures. During the course of the discussion, we were invited to participate in the RFP [request for proposals] that was coming up." --

"They were in a desperate situation and we were asked to submit a bid," Mr. Levine said.

Archives sources said the meeting provided Vance with information unavailable to other potential bidders and may have helped the company develop its bid under the emergency contracting procedures, in which time was crucial.

Following the meeting, Mr. Megronigle took the unusual step of giving Vance's brochure to Archives procurement officers assigned to the security contract with a note to "include this firm on the bidders list" for the contract, agency sources said. The material was placed in the security contract file - which has since been removed from the procurement division and placed under the supervision of a senior contracting officer.

-Mr. Megronigle denied he gave brochures to Archives contracting officers. "He did not send brochures to procurement," Ms. Brett said. "The brochure was attached to the bid submitted by Vance."

Two weeks passed between Aug. 18, 1987, the date of the Megronigle-Levine meeting, and Sept. 4, the day the bid solicitation was officially announced. Bids for the new security contract were due two weeks later.

Bids were solicited from four companies - Vance, Pinkerton, Wackehut Corp and Wells Fargo. The latter two declined to participate, leaving Vance International and Pinkerton to go head-to-head for the three-year contract.

and a server property fine and personal terms

Because the contract was offered on an emergency basis, Archives did not have to follow regular contracting rules requiring advertisement of all contracts for 30 days in Commerce Business Daily.

Mr. Megronigle said the information given to Vance prior to the bidding announcement was not shared. with any other security firm.

Even so, he said information shared in the briefing, including advanced notice of the contract, had no impact on which firm ultimately won the contract. "No, because I think in actuality they [Vance] may have known only about a week in advance that we were considering terminating the contract and soliciting . bids," he said.

One day after his interview with The Washington Times and after consulting the agency's counsel. Ms. Brett said Mr. Megronigle wanted to clarify the details of his discussion with Mr. Levine.

Through the spokeswoman, Mr. Megronigle said "he meant to say" that the Aug. 18 meeting was held as a "marketing survey only."

"The contract was not discussed." the spokeswoman said. "This [meeting] was in the form of a market survey. There was no purpose in putting out a negotiated bid if nobody could do any better" than the existing contractor. 🥠

Under government contracting regulations, it is permissible to hold private, general discussion meetings with contractors prior to a formal solicitation for bids. However, contractors are supposed to be treated equally and given the same

Mr. Vance, a former Secret Service agent during the Ford administration, founded his firm in 1984. Vance International has contracts with a variety of corporate and government clients, including Boston Properties, the Korean Embassy and Lufthansa Airlines. Archives represented its first contract with the U.S. government.

The company reported a loss of nearly \$385,000 on revenues of \$7.5 million for the 1987 fiscal year ended April-30. Mr. Vance attributed the loss to court costs associated with an unrelated lawsuit. The company, which has been "operationally profitable" since its founding in 1984, expects revenues of nearly \$10 million this year, he said.

The government's cost of doing business with Vance International has been \$19 an hour for guard services compared with \$6 an hour for similar services under the Old Dominion contract. Under the rejected Pinkerton bid. Archives would have paid about \$12.70 an hour for guard services. Vance is also providing receptionist services for about \$12 an hour, compared with the government average of \$5.50 an hour.

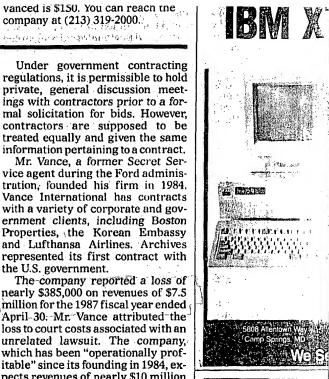


Natalle Sandra Lang has been elected to the board of directors of the Bank 2000 of Reston N.A.

... Ms. Lang is a partner and vice president of the Washington public & From Times News Services and Staff Reports

relations firm of Hager, Sharp & Abramson. Previously, she was a partner with Booz, Allen & Hamilton and a senior executive with Estee Lauder Inc. and Gray & Co.

Janet E. Flitzer has been named communications coordinator of First Advantage Mortgage Corp., a subsidiary of First American Bankshares Inc. in Columbia. She will be responsible for coordinating advertising and press releases.





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The Washington Times



SECTION C

## FBI probes bid process at Archives

By Leslie Cauley:

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is conducting an investigation at the National Archives to determine if agency officials misused government funds in comection with several, multimillion dollar contracts, according to sources faminar with the probe.

One of the contracts under scrutiny by the FBI is a \$3.8 million security contract awarded to Vance International Inc. of Oakton.

The firm, which is owned by the former son-in-law of ex-President Gerald Ford, won the contract in October 1987

even though it was the high bidder by \$1 million.

Archives officials have defended their handling of the Vance contract.

A second contract under investigation concerns a local consulting firm that won a lucrative contract with the agency even though it was also the high bidder, sources said.

Both contracts were awarded over the protests of Archives contracting officials, who claimed that the agency could not justify the cost differential to taxpayers, sources said. Other contracts may also be under investigation, sources said.

Citing Justice Department policy, an FBI spokeswoman said she could neither

confirm nor deny the existence of the investigation at Archives.

Jill Brett, an Archives spokeswoman, said the agency was not aware of any such investigation.

She said the agency was contacted in mid-November in response to an employee complaint. Other than that, "to our knowlege there is no investigation that I know of."

Sources familiar with the FBI probe said agents were questioning Archives employees this week.

Under government contracting rules, contracts are supposed to be awarded to the lowest bidder unless there is an urgent or compelling reason not to do so, a

subjective decision made by agency heads.

Normally, potential corruption problems within the federal government are initially investigated by an agency's inspector general's office. If warranted, the FBI is called in.

Archives, which used to be a part of the General Services Administration, does not have an inspector general's office. Archives became an independent agency in 1985.

Archives' two-man investigative unit was abolished in the midst of a criminal investigation in 1986 at the request of

see PROBE, page C10

From page C1

Archives' officials,

At the time, officials said Archives did not need an investigative staff. Officials said they would call uponjoutside agencies to come in on a reimbursable basis should it be warranted, sources said.

Since seceding from GSA, the agency has "neither requested nor have we performed any investigations or audits [for Archives] since they left us," a spokesman for GSA's inspector general's office said,

At the time of the abolishment, the two Archives investigators were working with prosecutors in preparing a criminal case against an agency official who allegedly accepted gifts from photographic companies that sold equipment and materials to the agency in exchange for

favorable treatment.

The case was dropped after the agency requested to handle the matter internally sources said.

Honorable William M. Diefenderfer, III Deputy Director Office of Management and Budget Room 252 Old Executive Office Building Washington, D.C. 20503

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Dear Mr. Diefenderfer:

Enclosed is a letterhead memorandum (LHM) concerning the results of an FBI investigation into allegations involving the Inspector General (IG), National Archives and Records Administration, Lawrene Oberg.

As noted on page three of the IHM, the investigation uncovered no evidence to implicate IG Oberg in any criminal activity. As such, the United States Attorney's Office (USAO) in Washington, D.C., declined any prosecution in this matter on January 23, 1990.

This matter was referred to the Allegations Review Subcommittee (ARS) of the Integrity/Law Enforcement Committee of the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency subsequent to the FBI's initiation of an investigation. Based upon the results of the FBI investigation and the lack of criminal prosecution by the USAO, the ARS is taking no further action on this matter.

Sincerely,

Oliver B. Revell Chairman

Integrity/Law Enforcement Committee

## Enclosure

1 - Honorable Sherman M. Funk Inspector General Department of State Room 6817 2201 C Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20520

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## U.S. Department of Justice

## Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Falls Church, Virginia 22043 January 31, 1990

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## NATIONAL ARCHIVES;

## VANCE INTERNATIONAL, INCORPORATED; FRAUD AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT-NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Investigation of the captioned matter by the FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (FBI) was predicated on information received from a confidential source during the month of December, The confidential source stated that

official, took actions to insure that <u>VANCE INTERNATIONAL was a</u>warded the NATIONAL ARCHIVES security contract in 1987. According to the confidential source, VANCE INTERNATIONAL was awarded the contract even though PINKERTON, another security company, submitted a bid which was much lower.

## CONFERENCE WITH US ATTORNEYS OFFICE

On December 30, 1988, Special Agents of the FBI discussed the above information with Assistant US Attorney (AUSA) DARRYL JACKSON, US Attorneys Office, Washington, DC. AUSA JACKSON requested that the FBI conduct an investigation to determine whether Federal bribery and/or fraud statutes were Picokloles (C.S.) violated with regard to the alleged questionable procurement activities at NATIONAL ARCHIVES.

## INVESTIGATION

The investigation determined that on September 4, 1987, NATIONAL ARCHIVES sent the security contract request for proposal (RFP) to four security companies (YVANCE INTERNATIONAL, WACKENHUT, PINKERTON AND WELLS FARGO. The RFP required interested companies to submit their proposals (bids) by September 18, 1987. Because there was insufficient time to prepare a bid, WACKENHUT and WELLS FARGO did not respond. Only two companies, VANCE INTERNATIONAL and PINKERTON, INCORPORATED submitted bids to NATIONAL ARCHIVES.

Officials of PINKERTON advised the FBI they had to "throw together" their proposal in order to meet the time restrictions imposed by the RFP. VANCE INTERNATIONAL's bid price was \$ 3.8 million and PINKERTON's bid price was \$ 2.7 million. On October 1, 1987, VANCE INTERNATIONAL was awarded the contract.

A review of the NATIONAL ARCHIVES security contract file determined that NATIONAL ARCHIVES procurement personnel waived several procurement regulations on the basis of exigent circumstances. Basically, these exigent circumstances were created when a determination was made on September 3, 1987, to terminate the contract with the security company then providing services to NATIONAL ARCHIVES. That termination was to take effect on October 5, 1987.

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At the time of the procurement, was the Assistant Archivist for Management and Administration and Subordinate, was the Director of Administrative Services. sat on the two member technical review panel which recommended that VANCE INTERNATIONAL receive the contract award. justified the award to the highest bidder based on VANCE INTERNATIONAL's superior technical qualifications.
The investigation further determined that prior to the aforementioned RFP being sent out, directed that meet with representatives of VANCE INTERNATIONAL.
On August 14, 1987. held a conference with
On August 14, 1987, held a conference with with VANCE INTERNATIONAL. Evidence obtained during the investigation determined that told of NATIONAL ARCHIVES' intentions to replace their security contractor. described for the type of services being provided by the contractor, including the number of guard stations in place at the NATIONAL ARCHIVES building.
On August 18, 1987, and other NATIONAL ARCHIVES officials met with representatives of VANCE INTERNATIONAL.
On September 18, 1987, VANCE INTERNATIONAL submitted their bid to NATIONAL ARCHIVES after the deadline had passed.  The VANCE INTERNATIONAL bid was accepted only after directed procurement officials to waive the deadline requirement.
It was also determined that during 1988,  frequently went to lunch with the VANCE  INTERNATIONAL employee who supervised the NATIONAL ARCHIVES contract. No evidence was found that or other VANCE  INTERNATIONAL representatives paid for meals.

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when interviewed by the rbi regarding their contacts
with representatives of VANCE INTERNATIONAL,
stated that the purpose of these contacts was to
gather information to be used in the preparation of the RFP.
Both of them denied telling VANCE INTERNATIONAL officials of
their intentions to hire another security company. Although the
investigation found evidence to the contrary (August 14, 1987
contact with denied that he provided VANCE
INTERNATIONAL officials with information which would be useful in
preparing their (VANCE INTERNATIONAL's) bid.
denied that their actions during the procurement
process were intended to assist VANCE INTERNATIONAL in that
company's attempts to win the contract award. stated
never attempted to pressure him into taking actions
favorable to VANCE INTERNATIONAL.

## **FINDINGS**

An extensive investigation conducted by the FBI discovered no evidence that VANCE INTERNATIONAL defrauded the Government. Furthermore, there was no information developed during the investigation which indicated that MEGRONIGLE and OBERG accepted bribes and/or gratuities from representatives of VANCE INTERNATIONAL.

## OPINION OF THE US ATTORNEYS OFFICE

On January 23, 1990, the above information was discussed with AUSA WILLIAM LANDERS, Chief, Public Integrity Section, Office of the United States Attorney, Washington, DC. AUSA LANDERS declined prosecution in the captioned matter due to a lack of evidence to support a criminal prosecution against the captioned subjects. In view of AUSA LANDERS' position, the FBI will conduct no further investigation in the captioned matter.

Date: August 2, 1989 President's Council on To: b6 Integrity and Efficiency (PCIE) b7C Coordinator, Office of Management and Budget Coordinator From: PCIE, FBI Subject: ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING PROCUREMENT MATTERS AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION (NARA) The status of captioned matter was discussed with Associate Deputy Director Investigations Oliver B. Revell, FBI, on August 1, 1989 at which time he requested that the following summary be relayed to you. ALLEGATIONS Allegations telephonically received by you from (telephone number alleging procurement irregularities at NAKA. Details were nonspecific and Beslow indicated he was drawing attention to the matter because of the nomination of Inspector General at NARA. Also received by you were allegations contained in \_ a letter <u>dated July 12, 1989</u> addressed to President George Bush from alleging illegal and improper actions at NARA. enclosed with her letter supporting documentation which included a signed statement. 46-75709-4 STATUS The FBI currently has a pending investigation which was initiated in December, 1988, concerning procurement matters at NARA. Although details of this <u>investica</u>tion cannot be discussed, I can advise you that has been interviewed concerning this matter and Beslow will be contacted in the near future. investigation has been completed to date and it is anticipated that the matter will be presented to the United States Attorney's Office in the near future. 1 - Mr. Revell Exec AD In Exec AD LES - Mr. Baker Asst. Dir.: Adm. 8e ident. Mr. Imfeld 1 insp. APPROVED: Mr. Elston Intell. Adm. Serve Lab. Crim. Inv. Off. of Cong Legal Coun & Public Affs ident. Off. Cong. & Director Exec. AD-Adm. Inspection Off. of Lia. Public Affs. & Intl. Affs. Rec. Mant. Intell, Tech. Servs. Laboratory Rec. Mgmt. Treining Tech. Servs. Legal Coun. Off. Lisison & Training int. Affa. Telephone Rm

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